



that
Guide WITH *Glasses*

PRESENTS

HISTORY BEHIND THE MAGIC



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Thank you for coming my Virtual Harry Potter of Edinburgh. This Pamphlet contains more information on five of the sites we visited on my tour. If you wish to learn more information on other sites we covered, email me at thatguidewithglasses@gmail.com.



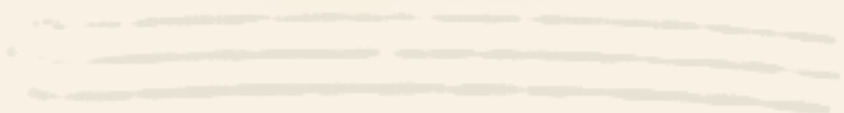
The Balmoral Hotel

The Balmoral Hotel (Balmoral being Gaelic for 'Majestic dwelling') is a Victorian-style luxury hotel located next to Waverley train station in the New Town of Edinburgh. It first opened in 1902 as the North British Hotel and was owned by the railway station. The hotel was refurbished in 1988 then purchased by Balmoral International Hotels and was "officially re-open" by Edinburgh-born actor Sean Connery in 1991.

In 2006 J.K Rowling spent two months in room 552 writing the final draft of 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows'. When she had finished, she wrote on a marble bust of Hermes "JK Rowling finished writing Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows in this room (552) on 11th Jan 2007". It's rumored that she spent a further two days in the room crying. Whether the rumor is true or not she defiantly finished the book with many mixed feelings.



The Balmoral clock is traditionally kept three minutes fast. When the hotel was owned by the railway station, there were complaints from customers that they were missing their trains. The clock was then set three minutes fast to make people rush for their trains. It worked and the complaints drop considerably.



The Edinburgh awards

The Edinburgh Award started in 2007 and is awarded to people who have caused a positive impact around the world and brought recognition to the City of Edinburgh. The first person to receive this award was crime writer Ian Rankin who is most famous for his Inspector Rebus novels.

J.K Rowling was the second person to receive the Edinburgh award, winning it by popular vote. She received the award not just for her internationally written book series, but because she was one of Britain's highest-paying taxpayers. She also gained billionaire status in 2004 and soon lost that status by donating so much money to charity.

Other recipients include Dame Elisabeth Blackadder, the first female painter to be accepted into the Scottish Royal Academy, and Thomas Gilzean, WWII veteran who spent decades on the streets of Edinburgh shaking his money tins and raised over 1 million dollars for charity.



Even though J.K Rowling is the first woman to receive the Edinburgh award, she prefers to call herself the 'second person to receive it'

The George Heriots School



The George Heriot School is named after Goldsmith of King James IV who was affectionately called "Jinglin Geordie" for the sound the money made in his pockets. Being an exceedingly wealthy man, he would walk the street give coins to street children so they could afford a meal.

Upon George's death in 1624 he left around £25,000 in his will to be spent on a "hospital for puir, faitherless bairns" ("hospital" meaning charitable institution).

The hospital was completed just as Oliver Cromwell's started his occupation of Edinburgh. Cromwell used the building as a barracks. The hospital officially opened in 1659 with thirty-six sickly children taking residence. As time went on, more money was raised and more pupils were able to attend, including non-orphans seeking education.

By 1880, the school started charging fee's as it becoming a private school, yet they still admit orphans free of charge to this day.

J.K Rowling's children attended the school during the time when she was still writing the books. Her children were constantly hounded for information. This became such an issue, the school had to call an assembly to tell the pupils that "They don't know how the series will end!"



Robert Cressers



Robert Cresser's Brush Shop was dedicated to selling the "best broom's and brushes in the world". It first opens it's doors at number 40 Victoria street in 1886 where it remained in business for 118 years until it sadly closed down in 2004. The 3 story building used the ground level as the shop, the second level for inhouse brush making and repair, and the third level as housing for the owner and his family.

The shop sold hundreds of different brushes, from brooms, clothes brushes, shoe brushes, chimney brushes, toothbrushes, clarinet brushes, to eyelash brushes and watercolor brushes. They had a re-bristling service to restore your old brushes which included toilet brush re-bristling.

The first shop shut its doors when the owner at the time, Stephen Gilhooly retired in 1996 but was forced out of retirement by the locals who demanded he 'get back to work!' After Stephen passed away the Brush Shop closed its doors for the final time in 2004.

The brushes used different types of animal hair, including horsetail, boar hair, squirrel tail, and goat hair. Each type of hair had a distinct smell and thickness. With the inhouse brush making, you could customize your brushes wood and bristle type. Just like Ollivander's wand shop finding the right wand for the right wizard, they were determined to finding the right brush for the right job.



Greyfriars Kirk

Greyfriars's Kirk ('Kirk 'meaning Church and 'Greyfriars's meaning monks in 'grey robes') was founded in 1598 and has had a long and dark history. It's said to be one of the most haunted graveyards in the world.

In 1638 National Covenant was signed in the kirkyard as a rebellion against the King's divine right over the church. The people who signed the document called themselves the 'Covenanters'. This was one of the key events which lead to The War of the Three Kingdoms. In 1679, the kirk grounds became a prison for the Covenanters captured by the king's forces. The in the 18th and 19th centuries the graveyard was crawling at night with "body- snatchers". These were men who dug up the recently buried to sell their bodies to the medical school. The graveyard is decorated with the dark symbols during the Victorian era consisting of skulls, crossbones, and screaming faces.

On the 14th of January every year, the kirk pays tribute to Greyfriars Bobby. Bobby was the dog of night watchman John Grey. When John died in 1858 Bobby sat on his master's grave for 14 years. Though his story sounds sad, Bobby had a good life. He was spoiled by the locals and tourists and got to sleep in the kirk on cold nights.

For J.K Rowling, the graveyard became the perfect place to take her baby Jessica for a walk. It was quite and calm and no one would get annoyed if her baby started to cry. She also took the time to write down the names she saw the graves to use in her book series.

The skulls and crossbones found all over the graveyard were to symbolise that death comes for everyone, so live while you can. It was the Victorian era version of "YOLO, You Only Live Once"



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